

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2185–S2226

Measures Introduced: Twenty-eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 940–967. **Pages S2220–21**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 754, to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats. (S. Rept. No. 114–32) **Page S2220**

House Messages:

Budget Resolution—Motions to Instruct Conferees: Senate began consideration of the message from the House of Representatives to accompany S. Con. Res. 11, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025, taking action on the following motion and motions to instruct conferees proposed thereto:

Pages S2193–99, S2199–S2201, S2202–12

Adopted:

By 54 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 145) Motion to disagree in the amendment of the House to the concurrent resolution, agree to the request by the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees. **Pages S2193–98**

By 86 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 146), Brown Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending “Too Big to Fail” bailouts for Wall Street mega-banks with over \$500,000,000,000 in total assets, as set forth in amendment 994 to S. Con. Res. 11 (as agreed to by the Senate). **Pages S2200–01, S2202–08**

By 85 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 147), Sanders Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the provision in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate that provides for the establishment of a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to strengthening the United States Postal Service by establishing a moratorium to protect mail processing plants, reinstating overnight delivery standards, protecting rural service, allowing

the Postal Service to innovate and adapt to compete in a digital age, or improving the financial condition of the Postal Service. **Pages S2202–08**

By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. 148), Enzi (for Burr) Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to addressing student loan debt, which may include reducing overlapping student loan repayment programs and creating a simplified income-driven student loan repayment option, as included in section 358 of S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2203–09**

By 84 yeas to 13 nays (Vote No. 150), Sanders Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation related to retirement benefits, which may not include legislation cutting benefits under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program established under title II of the Social Security Act, increasing the retirement age, or privatizing the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program. **Pages S2199–S2201, S2202–10**

Schatz Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ensuring all legally married same-sex spouses have equal access to the Social Security and veterans’ benefits they have earned and receive equal treatment under the law pursuant to the Constitution of the United States in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2200–01, S2202–10**

Bennet Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include provisions in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate for the establishment of deficit-neutral reserve funds relating to climate change. **Pages S2204–10**

By 57 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. 151), Fischer Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to promoting equal pay, which may include preventing discrimination on the basis of sex and preventing retaliation against employees for seeking or discussing wage information, as included in section 356 of S. Con. Res. 11, as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2207–10**

Fischer Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to tax credits for employers providing paid family and medical leave. **Pages S2207–11**

Sanders (for Murray) Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include the deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate. **Pages S2205–11**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 149), Warren Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision to make college more affordable for middle-class families by allowing borrowers with outstanding Federal and private student loans to refinance at the equivalent interest rates that were offered to Federal student loan borrowers during the 2013–2014 school year and to fully offset the cost of such a program by requiring millionaires to pay at least a 30 percent effective Federal tax rate. **Pages S2201–09**

By 44 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 152), Mikulski Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision relating to amending the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to allow for punitive damages, limit the any factor “other than sex” exception, and prohibit retaliation against employees who share salary information, as included in amendment 362 to S. Con. Res. 11 (as not agreed to by the Senate). **Pages S2204–11**

Sanders (for Murray) Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report include a provision to build on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and provide sequester relief in 2016 and 2017 by closing tax loopholes. **Pages S2205–11**

By 45 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 153), Stabenow Motion to Instruct Conferees to insist that the final conference report not include the Medicare cuts in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the Senate, which would substantially increase out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for senior citizens, and not include the Medicare cuts in the concurrent resolution as agreed to by the House of Representatives, which would end Medicare as it currently exists by turning it into a voucher-based premium support system and eliminate the guaranteed healthcare benefits earned by the people of the United States. **Pages S2206–12**

The Chair was authorized to appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Senators Enzi, Grassley, Sessions, Crapo, Graham, Portman, Toomey, Johnson, Ayotte, Wicker, Corker, Perdue, Sanders, Murray, Wyden, Stabenow, Whitehouse, Warner, Merkley, Baldwin, Kaine, and King.

Page S2212

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2015, Senate resume consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking, with the time equally divided in the usual form; and that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120 to the bill be at 10:30 a.m.

Page S2224

Deyo and Chaudhuri Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 2 p.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years; Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, without intervening action or debate; and that no further motions be in order.

Pages S2223–24

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Linda Struyk Millsaps, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2018.

Thomas Edgar Rothman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2016.

Wilhelmina Marie Wright, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

Pages S2224–26

Messages from the House: **Page S2215**

Measures Referred: **Page S2215**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2215–20**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2221–22**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2222–23**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2213-15**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2223**

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—153) **Pages S2198, S2208–12**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:34 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2224.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING FOR SELECT COMBATANT COMMANDERS AND SELECT DEFENSE AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for military construction and military family housing for select combatant commanders and select defense agencies, after receiving testimony from Major General Stephen A. Clark, USAF, Director of Force Structure, Requirements, Resources, and Strategic Assessments (J8), U.S. Special Operations Command, Major General Michael G. Dana, USMC, Director for Strategic Planning and Policy (J5), U.S. Pacific Command, Joseph B. Marshal, Jr., Director, Business Support Directorate, Defense Health Agency, and Brigadier General Kenneth E. Todarov, USAF, Deputy Director, Missile Defense Agency, all of the Department of the Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a closed hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the national intelligence and military intelligence programs, after receiving testimony from James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence; and Michael Vickers, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence.

FUNDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S ROLE IN CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine funding the Department of Homeland Security's role in cybersecurity, focusing on protection to partnership, after receiving testimony from Andy Ozment, Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communication, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and Luke McCormack, Chief Information Officer, both of the Department of Homeland Security; and Greg Garcia, Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council, Reston Virginia.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower received a closed briefing on the major threats facing Navy forces and the Navy's current and projected capabilities to meet those threats in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Charles P. Werchado, Deputy Director, Assessment Division (OPNAV N81), Vice Admiral Joseph P. Aucoin, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Systems (OPNAV N9), and Margaret G. Palmieri, Director, Integrated Fires (OPNAV N2/N6F3), Office of Chief of Naval Operations, all of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine the National Nuclear Security Administration plans and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Frank G. Klotz, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and Administrator, Donald L. Cook, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, Anne M. Harrington, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, and Office of Naval Reactors, all of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy; and David C. Trimble, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, and Kristine Svinicki, William Ostendorff, and Jeff Baran, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

AMERICAN FOOD AID

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine American food aid, focusing on why reform matters, after receiving testimony from Dina Esposito, Director, Food for Peace, United States Agency for International Development; David Ray, CARE USA, Washington, D.C.; Vincent H.

Smith, Montana State University, Bozeman, on behalf of the American Enterprise Institute; and Stephanie Mercier, Farm Journal Foundation, Alexandria, Virginia.

IRS CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Internal Revenue Service challenges in implementing the Affordable Care Act, after receiving testimony from John A. Koskinen, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee continued consideration of an original bill entitled, “Every Child Achieves Act of 2015”, an original bill entitled, “WIOA Technical Amendments Act”, and the nominations of Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

ASSET FORFEITURE REFORM

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the need to reform asset forfeiture, after receiving testimony from Senator Paul; Darpana M. Sheth, Institute for Justice, Arlington, Virginia; Chuck Canterbury, Fraternal Order of Police, Washington, D.C.; Jonathan P. Bach, Cooley LLP, New York, New York, on behalf of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers; and Russ Caswell, Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

IRS IMPERSONATION SCAM

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the IRS impersonation scam and the government’s response, after receiving testimony from Julie Brill, Commissioner, Federal Trade Commission; Alysa D. Erichs, Special Agent in Charge, Homeland Security Investigations Miami, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Jason Moore, Auburn Maine Police Department; and Al Cadenhead, Charlotte, North Carolina.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 35 public bills, H.R. 1795–1829; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 201–206, were introduced. **Pages H2268–69**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2270–71**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–75, Part 1);

H.R. 404, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (H. Rept. 114–76);

H.R. 533, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of

that tribe, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–77);

H.R. 984, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–78);

H.R. 1168, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–79);

H.R. 1324, to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–80);

H.R. 979, to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point” (H. Rept. 114–81); and

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; Oversight Plans for all House Committees (H. Rept. 114–82). **Pages H2267–68**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jolly to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2215**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2218**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Kenny Gooden, Union Grove Baptist Church, Yadkinville, North Carolina. **Page H2218**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2015: H.R. 1058, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that a duty of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is to ensure that Internal Revenue Service employees are familiar with and act in accord with certain taxpayer rights; **Pages H2230–32**

IRS Email Transparency Act: H.R. 1152, amended, to prohibit officers and employees of the Internal Revenue Service from using personal email accounts to conduct official business; **Pages H2232–33**

Taxpayer Knowledge of IRS Investigations Act: H.R. 1026, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the release of information regarding the status of certain investigations; **Pages H2233–35**

Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the Right to Appeal Act: H.R. 1314, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; **Pages H2235–36**

IRS Bureaucracy Reduction and Judicial Review Act: H.R. 1295, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code; **Pages H2236–38**

Prevent Targeting at the IRS Act: H.R. 709, amended, to provide for the termination of employment of employees of the Internal Revenue Service who take certain official actions for political purposes; **Pages H2238–40**

Fair Treatment for All Gifts Act: H.R. 1104, amended, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a deduction from the gift tax for gifts made to certain exempt organizations; and **Pages H2240–41**

Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015: H.R. 1562, to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee

certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 156. **Pages H2241–43, H2251–52**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 16. **Page H2249**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4:29 p.m. **Page H2249**

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Federal Employee Tax Accountability Act of 2015: H.R. 1563, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that individuals having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 266 yeas to 160 nays, Roll No. 157.

Pages H2243–49, H2252

State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015, Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015, and Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act: The House agreed to H. Res. 200, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 622) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1105) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1195) to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to establish advisory boards, by a recorded vote of 242 yeas to 182 nays, Roll No. 155, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nay vote of 240 yeas to 183 nays, Roll No. 154.

Pages H2223–30, H2250–51

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on page H2219.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2250, H2250–51, H2251–52, and H2252. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF SNAP: THE WORLD OF NUTRITION AND THE ROLE OF THE CHARITABLE SECTOR

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: The World of Nutrition and the Role of the Charitable Sector”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBERS’ DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing for Members of Congress. Testimony was heard from Chairman Miller of Florida and Representatives Lowenthal, Ted Lieu of California, Jolly, McGovern, Heck of Washington, Johnson of Georgia, Cook, Byrne, Carter of Georgia, Rothfus, Lawrence, and Wagner.

APPROPRIATIONS—SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Securities and Exchange Commission budget. Testimony was heard from Mary Jo White, Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission.

APPROPRIATIONS—EBOLA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on Ebola budget. Testimony was heard from Nicole Lurie, MD, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, United States Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Thomas R. Frieden, MD, Director, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention; Anthony S. Fauci, MD, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health; and Robin Robinson, Director, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a markup on appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016. The bill was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS—IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Immigration and Customs Enforcement budget. Testimony was heard from Sarah R. Saldaña, Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a markup on appropriations bill for fiscal year 2016. The bill was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment.

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on United Nations and International Organizations budget. Testimony was heard from Samantha Power, United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

THE RISK OF LOSING MILITARY TECHNOLOGY SUPERIORITY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY, STRATEGY, AND POSTURE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Risk of Losing Military Technology Superiority and Its Implications for U.S. Policy, Strategy, and Posture in the Asia-Pacific”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, U.S. Forces Korea; and Christine E. Wormuth, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

THE ROLE OF SURFACE FORCES IN PRESENCE, DETERRENCE, AND WARFIGHTING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “The Role of Surface Forces in Presence, Deterrence, and Warfighting”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2016 NUCLEAR FORCES HEARING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2016 Nuclear Forces Hearing”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Vice Admiral Terry J. Benedict, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs; Major General Garrett Harencak, USAF, Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration; Arthur T. Hopkins, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs; and Robert M. Scher, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

SERVING STUDENTS AND FAMILIES THROUGH CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Serving Students and Families through Child Nutrition Programs”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1734, the “Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act of 2015”; H.R. 906, to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters; and H.R. 1770, the “Data Security and Breach Notification Act of 2015”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 906 and H.R. 1770. The following bill was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1734.

EXAMINING REGULATORY BURDENS ON NON-DEPOSITORY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Examining Regulatory Burdens on Non-Depository Financial Institutions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONFRONTING RUSSIA’S WEAPONIZATION OF INFORMATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Confronting Russia’s Weaponization of Information”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a markup on H.R. 1150, to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to advance religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more flexible political responses to religious freedom violations and violent extremism worldwide, and for other purposes; and H. Res. 50, calling for the release of Ukrainian fighter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine and has been held illegally in a Russian prison since July 2014. H.R. 1150 was forwarded to the full committee, without amendment. H. Res. 50 was forwarded to the full committee, as amended.

THE CONTINUING THREAT OF NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “The Continuing Threat of Neglected Tropical Diseases”. Testimony was heard from Ariel Pablos-Méndez, M.D., Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, U.S. Agency for International Development; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 427, the “Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015”; H.R. 1759, the “All Economic Regulations are Transparent Act of 2015”; and H.R. 758, the “Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2015”. The following bill was ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 427. The following bill was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1759. The committee began consideration of H.R. 758.

ANALYZING MISCONDUCT IN FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Analyzing Misconduct in Federal Law Enforcement”. Testimony was heard from Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, Department of Justice; John Roth, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security; Herman E. “Chuck” Whaley, Deputy Chief Inspector, Office of Professional Responsibility, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; and Mark Hughes, Chief Integrity Officer, Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION AND ITS IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing entitled “Federal Land Acquisition and its Impacts on Communities and the Environment”. Testimony was heard from Robert A. Lovingood, Supervisor, First District San Bernardino County; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE FUTURE IMPACTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA’S OFFSHORE ENERGY PLAN

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Examining the Future Impacts of President Obama’s Offshore Energy Plan”. Testimony was heard from Pat McCrory, Governor, State of North Carolina; Abigail Hopper, Director, Bureau of Ocean

Energy Management, Department of the Interior; Emilie Swearingen, Commissioner, Town of Kure Beach, North Carolina; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF EFFORTS TO REFORM THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits and Administrative Rules; and Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade of the Committee on Financial Services, held a joint hearing entitled “Oversight of Efforts to Reform the Export-Import Bank of the United States”. Testimony was heard from the following Export-Import Bank of the United States officials: Michael T. McCarthy, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General; Mark S. Thorum, Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General; Fred P. Hochberg, Chairman and President; and Nathan Sheets, Undersecretary for International Affairs, Department of Treasury; and Kimberly M. Gianopoulos, Director of Advocacy, International Affairs and Trade Team, Government Accountability Office.

THE TAXPAYER ADVOCATE’S ANNUAL REPORT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “The Taxpayer Advocate’s Annual Report”. Testimony was heard from Nina Olson, National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service.

THE PRESIDENT’S UN CLIMATE PLEDGE: SCIENTIFICALLY JUSTIFIED OR A NEW TAX ON AMERICANS?

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The President’s UN Climate Pledge: Scientifically Justified or a New Tax on Americans?”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TAX REFORM: ENSURING THAT MAIN STREET ISN’T LEFT BEHIND

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Tax Reform: Ensuring that Main Street Isn’t Left Behind”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1732, the “Regulatory Integrity Protection Act”; H.R. 1471, the “FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act of 2015”; H.R. 1472, the “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015”; H.R. 1473, the “John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of

2015”; H.R. 944, to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; H.R. 336, to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; H.R. 172, to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse”; H. Con. Res. 21, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; H. Con. Res. 25, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; and H.R. 1690, to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 1732 and H.R. 1471. The following legislation was ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1472, H.R. 944, H.R. 1473, H.R. 336, H.R. 172, H.R. 1690, H. Con. Res. 21, and H. Con. Res. 25.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD’S MISSIONS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “An Overview of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Missions”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Charles Michel, United States Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Operations.

DENVER VA MEDICAL CENTER: CONSTRUCTING A WAY FORWARD

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Denver VA Medical Center: Constructing a Way Forward”. Testimony was heard from Lloyd C. Caldwell, Director of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army; and Sloan D. Gibson, Deputy Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on the National Security Agency and Cybersecurity held a hearing on special activities. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine if taxes are holding back small business growth, after receiving testimony from Brian Reardon, S Corporation Association, and Holly

Wade, National Federation of Independent Business, both of Washington, D.C.; Jody Fledderman, Batesville Tool and Die, Batesville, Indiana; Thomas A. Hoghaug, Signus Medical LLC, Chanhassen, Minnesota; and Martin A. Sullivan, Tax Analysts, Falls Church, Virginia.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2:30 p.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine regulatory burdens to obtaining mortgage credit, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the Energy Information Administration's annual energy outlook for 2015, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to continue consideration of an original bill entitled, "Every Child Achieves Act of 2015", an original bill entitled, "WIOA Technical Amendments Act", and the nominations of Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, and Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, both of the Department of Education, 12:30 p.m., SH-216.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sally Quillian Yates, of Georgia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Kara Farnandez Stoll, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, and Roseann A. Ketchmark, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Medicare Post Acute Care Delivery and Options to Improve It", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, hearing entitled "H.R. _____, Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters (TROL) Act", 11 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "The Future of Housing in America: Increasing Private Sector Participation in Affordable Housing", 9:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled "The Worst Places to Work in the Federal Government", 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled "An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Fiscal Year 2016", 9 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, markup on H.R. 473, the "Increasing the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability to Veterans Act of 2015"; H.R. 475, the "GI Bill Processing Improvement Act of 2015"; H.R. 476, the "GI Bill Education Quality Enhancement Act of 2015"; H.R. 1382, the "Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act"; H.R. 456, the "Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2015"; H.R. 474, the "Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015"; H.R. 643, the "Veterans Education Survey Act of 2015"; H.R. 1038, the "Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act"; H.R. 1141, the "GI Bill Fairness Act of 2015"; H.R. 1187, to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust certain limits on the guaranteed amount of a home loan under the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and H.R. 1313, the "Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act", 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture, hearing on NRO budget, 9 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing will be closed.

Subcommittee on Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture, hearing on NGA budget, 10:15 a.m., HVC-304. This hearing will be closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, April 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, April 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120 to the bill at approximately 11 a.m. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments to McConnell (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1120 to the bill is at 10:30 a.m.

At approximately 2 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 622—State and Local Sales Tax Deduction Fairness Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule), H.R. 1105—Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Advisory Boards Act (Subject to a Rule), and H.R. 1195—Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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